

FRANCIS GRIFFITH.

MAY 26, 1842.

Laid upon the table.

Mr. BAKER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Francis Griffith, report:

That it appears that the petitioner joined the army of the United States in 1812 on an enlistment for five years, and that he was taken prisoner by the Indians at Dudley's defeat. He says that, in consequence of his sufferings, while in the hands of the enemy, he had a severe sickness, which resulted in *deafness*; that he was subsequently exchanged, and returned to Detroit, and, while at work in the garrison there, he wounded himself accidentally in the ancle with an adz; and that he was finally discharged from the army in 1815. He further states that his wounded ancle prevents him from wearing a boot or shoe, and that he also suffers much from rheumatism, which he attributes to exposure and fatigue in service, and while a prisoner among the Indians.

This statement of the petitioner is sworn to in due form.

B. Bridges and Simon Peters testify, *informally*, to the good character of the petitioner, from an acquaintance of twenty years' duration.

John S. Bolles and L. Dunlap, who are certified to be reputable practising physicians and surgeons, testify to the present deafness of the petitioner, and to such an injury of his right ancle as he describes in his declaration above recited—to his rheumatic pains, &c. They represent his disability as total, but have no knowledge of the origin of the diseases or injuries which caused the disability.

James Welch testifies that he was a fellow-soldier with the petitioner at the garrison at Detroit, and served with him while an invalid from the wound in his ancle, received as above described.

James C. Pickett testifies that he was the lieutenant of the company to which petitioner belonged, and that he was honorably discharged from the army in consequence of *deafness*, saying nothing of any wound or other disability.

Inasmuch, therefore, as it appears that the petitioner remained in the service some months after the *wound* is alleged to have been received, and was then discharged for a cause having no connexion with said wound, and because it is not proved and cannot fairly be inferred that the *deafness* for which the petitioner was discharged may not have

been in consequence of a constitutional predisposition thereto, instead of the exposure, &c., to which he attributes it, and because the rheumatism of which he complains is not shown to be clearly occasioned by circumstances connected with the discharge of his duty as a soldier, the committee are compelled, in accordance with the views of the Committee on Pensions, and of two former committees of Congress, to report that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

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It appears from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, and the following

REPORT

of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition

of Francis D. Smith, for a pension, &c.

AND

of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the petition

of James H. Smith, for a pension, &c.

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